

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16971

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ABLD, AFSP, UR, US

SUBJ: NEW SOVIET CHANCERY CONSTRUCTION

REF: A. STATE 277340

B. STATE 276944

1. AS REQUESTED PARA 12 REF A CHARGE CALLED ON USA DIVISION OF MFA NOVEMBER 25, PRESENTING COPY OF NON-PAPER USED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN (REF B) AND PROVIDING FURTHER BACKGROUND ON THOSE POINTS INVOLVING REQUESTS FOR FACILITIES IN MOSCOW. HE WAS RECEIVED BY DEPUTY CHIEF USA DIVISION KOMPLEKTOV SINCE KORNIYENKO TIED UP WITH OTHER BUSINESS.

2. KOMPLEKTOV IN RESPONSE EXPRESSED "PERSONAL" VIEWS THAT FINANCIAL QUESTIONS DEPENDED NOW ON INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED BY AMERICANS AND COULD BE RESOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EXPERTS OF BOTH SIDES, AND THAT OTHER ITEMS WERE NOT TRULY RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION ISSUE. HE WAS PARTICULARLY NEGATIVE ON ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS, I.E. OPTION FOR US TO RETAIN PRESENT CHANCERY AS PROPOSED IN POINT 5 ON NON-PAPER. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT 10 PERCENT SURCHARGE (POINT 1.A.) WAS NORMAL FOR ALL, THAT POINT 2 ON OCCUPANCY HOLD-UP WAS UNFAIR BECAUSE WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO START CONSTRUCTION OWING TO OUR OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS. HE CONCLUDED, AGAIN STRESSING PERSONAL OPINION, THAT BEST SOLUTION WAS ACCELERATION CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS AND THAT ATTEMPT TO LINK OTHER ISSUES OF OUR PROPOSAL MIGHT HAVE OPPOSITE EFFECT.

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3. CHARGE STRESSED THAT OUR APPROACH WAS INTENDED TO BE HELPFUL TO SOVIETS IN PROVIDING BASIS TO PERMIT THEIR CONSTRUCTION START, REITERATING POINTS MADE BY MR. HARTMAN. CONNECTION OF REQUESTS FOR FACILITIES IN MOSCOW, HE SAID, WAS EVIDENT AS SOVIETS WOULD BE BUILDING APARTMENT AND SCHOOL. OUR INTEREST WAS TO ASSURE WE HAVE ADEQUATE FACILITIES HERE PENDING OCCUPANCY NEW PREMISES. DISCUSSION ENDED WITH KOMPLEKTOV REPEATING PERSONAL DOUBTS THAT PURSUING MATTER ON LINES PROPOSED WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

4. COMMENT: POINTS THAT STRIKE US IN KOMPLEKTOV'S COMMENTS ARE PRINCIPALLY ASSERTION THAT US MUST PROVIDE MORE INFO BEFORE COST QUESTIONS CAN BE RESOLVED, STRONGLY NEGATIVE REACTION TO ANY POSSIBLE CHANGE OF AGREEMENTS, AND GENERAL OBJECTION TO LINKAGE WITH ADDED FACILITIES FOR US IN MOSCOW. IF KOMPLEKTOV CORRECT ON COST, WE WOULD HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL BE IN POSITION TO SUPPLY ANY ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL DATA NEEDED FOR MORE PRECISE AND ACCEPTABLE SOVIET DETERMINATIONS OF COSTS BEFORE FINAL DRAWINGS COMPLETED IN APRIL. WITH RESPECT TO LINKAGE PROBLEM, WE OF COURSE ARE CONCENTRATING ON ACQUISITION OF FACILITIES CONCERNED AND FIRM COMMITMENTS THROUGH NORMAL UPDK CHANNELS WOULD SEEM ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE. IF FORMALIZATION OF LINKAGE CONCEPT CONTINUES TO RAISE SOVIET HACKLES, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH AT APPROPRIATE TIME TO NOTE THAT SUBSTANCE MORE IMPORTANT THAN FORM ON ITEMS 4 THROUGH 9 OF OUR PROPOSAL.
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